ISD/STD/Internet/Fax/E-Mail in H.P.

1585. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/e-mail etc. facilities provided or proposed to be provided in various Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2002-03;

(b) the Gram Panchayats with and without the above facilities, separately, in the State and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) 3 out of 3037 Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh have been provided with STD facilities as on 31.01.2003. STD/ISD/FAX facilities to 3005 Gram Panchayats and Internet/e-mail facility to 1867 Gram Panchayats can be provided on demand.

(c) STD/ISD/FAX/Internet/e-mail facility in the telephone exchanges serving the remaining panchayats are planned to be provided on upgradation of concerned exchages/media of these exchanges during 2003-04 subject to availability of resources.

Programme for handicapped in Himachal Pradesh

1586. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programme has been developed by Government for deaf, dumb, and visually disabled persons in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the centres where such programmes are being run for the disabled persons; and

(d) the additional centres proposed to be opened in the State during the next three years to give equal participation to disabled persons?